

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Amend claims 32, 33, 36, 42, 43, 46, 53, and 57.
2. Rewrite claims 41 and 51 as independent claims.
3. Cancel claim 52 without prejudice or disclaimer.
4. Respectfully traverse all rejections.
5. Advise the Examiner of the simultaneous filing of a Petition to Extend.

B. THE CLAIMS ARE DEFINITE

Claims 32, 42, 33, 34, and 54 have been amended to moot the formalities objections raised in the fourth enumerated paragraph of the office action (bridging pages 2 and 3). The undersigned does not understand the objection concerning claim 32 raised in the last subparagraph of the fourth enumerated paragraph of the office action, e.g., does not understand how the Examiner views any direction limitation as being expressly stated or implied. Further explanation or suggestive comment would be appreciated. Further, the undersigned assumes that the penultimate subparagraph of the fourth enumerated paragraph of the office action intends to refer to claim 53 rather than claim 54.

Claims 41 and 51 have been rewritten as independent claims. Claim 52 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

C. THE DISCLOSURE IS ENABLING

The office action alleges that it is not clear how the invention detects the "active period" and that it is not stated what to do with the "silence periods". As supported by Fig. 8 (see, e.g., steps ST80, ST80', ST81) and the description on page 25, last paragraph, independent claims 32 and 42 have been amended to state that the active period detector "detects" the packets and from the determination of the inter-arrival times and the "detection" the active period is the one from the first to the last "detected" packet with the interarrival-time of within a predetermined range. Comparable amendments have also been implemented for independent method claim 53. Applicants believe these amendments, among other considerations, confirm enablement.

Applicants submit that the "silence" periods need not be explicitly mentioned in the claims since the claimed subject matter relates to the "maintaining" of the physical connection" with many embodiments, rather than to what happens in the "silence periods". Moreover, for what it is worth, several embodiments explain how to detect the silence periods (see page 26, last paragraph) and what action to take upon detection. One example action is, of course, to tear down of the physical connection TBF. But, as indicated in the specification, there are also other possibilities such as a delayed tear down or a transmission of a special packet as is the subject of other embodiments (see, e.g., the titles of the other embodiments).

The independent claims have been amended to add the transmission buffer queue. The transmission buffer queue is supported, e.g., on page 8, third paragraph; page 9, first and second paragraph; page 23, 1st paragraph; page 24, first paragraph; and, page 25, 2nd paragraph.

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, the Examiner has ample bases for withdrawing all objections and rejections and passing the application to issue.

C. MISCELLANEOUS

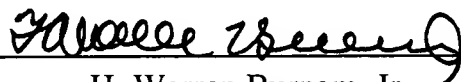
In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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